

# Star invests for future

Smart  
Returns

MANOA Vosawai, 32, who plays rugby for the Cardiff Blues in Wales, recently attended the South Pacific Stock Exchange's smart investment session last week with a keen interest in Fiji's stock market. Convinced of the benefits presented and having sought advice from a licensed stockbroker, he decided to cap his three-week visit to Fiji by investing in three SPSE listed companies.

Interested in his reasons for investing in an exchange that was miles and a few oceans away from the isles of the red-dragon, the SPSE caught up with Mr Vosawai to find out a little more about his interest to invest:

**SPSE: How did you hear about investing in Fiji's stock market?**

**VOSAWAI:** I travel to Fiji for three weeks every year and during this period I look for new investment projects. I was having a chat last week with my lawyer about other investment options that I could add to my portfolio of real estate, insurance and cattle farming. He had recommended that I talk to the SPSE about buying shares because some of the returns were lucrative. I never knew that Fiji had her own stock exchange.

**SPSE: What made you decide to invest?**

**VOSAWAI:** My dad taught me the value of money from a young age and everything I earned, from weeding the cassava patch to cutting the grass; I was always encouraged to save.

I became very excited when I heard about Fiji's stock market where I could earn good returns on my savings. The stock broking firm was very helpful and practical with the advice they gave me.

I was looking for shares that could give me regular dividend income but also ones where I could sell at a higher price in 10 years compared with what I buy them at now.

Some of the listed companies I was looking at were giving in excess of 6.5 per cent in dividend return alone, and that's tax free.

I heard at the SPSE seminar that this man had purchased shares in 2004 for \$1.08 per share and sold last week at \$2.96 per share. The numbers just made sense to me, especially for retirement. I only wish I had started investing earlier.

**SPSE: What are you investing for?**

**VOSAWAI:** Mainly for life after rugby. After I've done my rounds on the rugby field and my body has reached its limit, I don't want to have to force myself to keep playing in the lower divisions in order to look after my Ratu (dad) or maintain my current lifestyle. I want to retire at the peak of my rugby career and comfortably with steady income that is coming from my different investments that I'm building up now.

I am also investing to diversify my portfolio, so if real-estate goes quiet, at least I'll still have my performing stocks to supplement income.

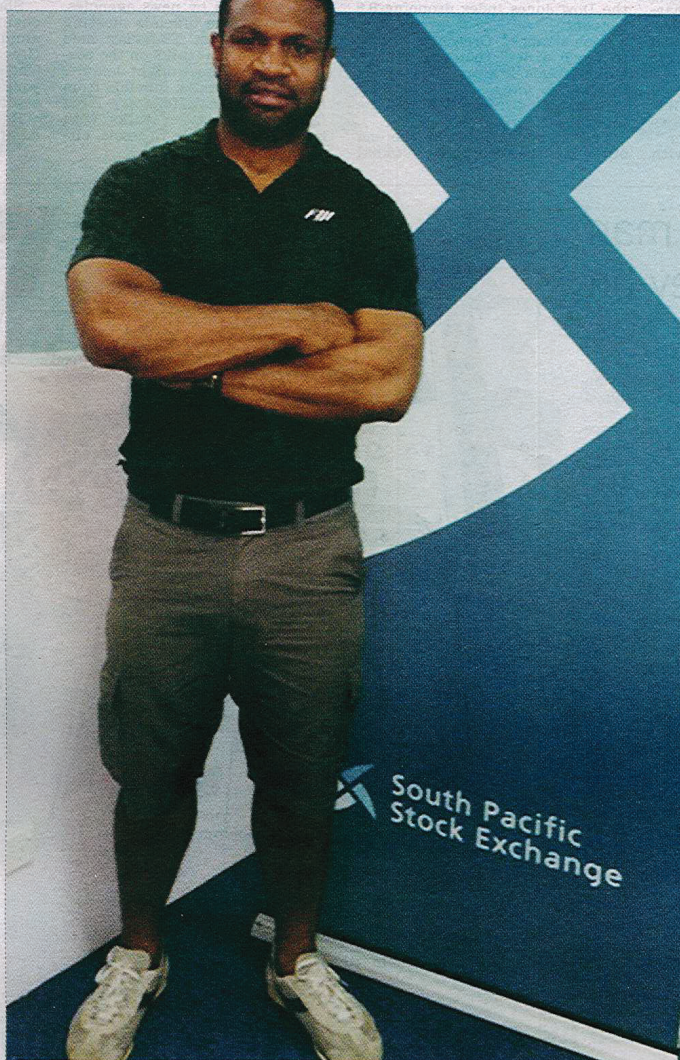
I was thinking that when I do start a family I would like to transfer investments to my children or have access to investments that I can sell through the stock market to fund their education.

**SPSE: What advice would you offer to the public?**

**VOSAWAI:** For rugby players, especially those that have overseas contracts and are receiving good money, take time to talk to brokers about investing in shares and consider putting aside money to invest.

The earlier you start the better it is for you to gain good returns in the long run. We're not talking scary, huge sums of money here.

Start with at least a small amount to test the waters and once you start seeing the returns you can grow your investment further.



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Cardiff Blues rugger Manoa Vosawai during a visit to the SPSE in Suva last week. Picture: SUPPLIED

You can be a rugby player for a long time but not forever, so when it's time to hang those boots, you will at least have your investments to support you.

I would also like to encourage the public, especially young professionals, to consider setting aside a small portion from your pay to invest so that you add on to your superannuation fund. It's the whole principle of 'don't put all your eggs in one basket'.

Last week I also decided to register and contribute as a voluntary FNPF member to add on to BSP and LICFI investments based on that principle.

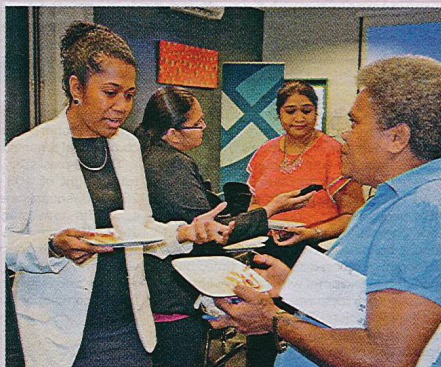
Also, investing in my view is better than consuming all or most of your pay on one huge party weekend that you probably won't remember (laughs).

For more information on investing in Fiji's stock market, please contact the SPSE on 3304 130, [www.spse.com.fj](http://www.spse.com.fj) or email [info@spse.com.fj](mailto:info@spse.com.fj)

■ The article is a contribution from the South Pacific Stock Exchange.



Former Italian rugby player, Manoa Vosawai, right, chats with Eseromy Imanuel during the South Pacific Stock Exchange smart investing seminar at the Suva Business Centre last week. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU



South Pacific Stock Exchange CEO Latileta Qoro, left, chats with Sereseini Betei during the South Pacific Stock Exchange smart investing seminar. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU



Kontiki Capital Ltd managing director Griffon Emose speaks to participants during the SPSE smart investing lunch seminar. Picture: JONACANI LALAKOBAU